

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 093337
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JSDAVIDOW:SBA
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEE
AF/S:DKEOGH
AF/E:PSMITH
S/S- SGOLDSMITH

-----260249Z 117300 /66

O 260131Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 093337

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, ZA, RH

SUBJECT: LOW CONVERSATION WITH NKOMO

REF: LUSAKA 1117,LOW-SMITH TELCON

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR YOUR MEETING WITH NKOMO.
2. FYI. THIS WEEK WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE BRITISH IN LONDON TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF OWEN'S TRIP. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN GAUGING AFRICAN RESPONSE TO OUR POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. WE WILL SUGGEST TO THE BRITISH THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ENGAGE IN FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE AFRICANS, INCLUDING NKOMO, TO DETERMINE WHAT ROLE FOR US WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID MISSTEPS WHICH WOULD FURTHER ALIENATE THE
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NATIONALISTS AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. END FYI.

3. AS YOUR MEETING WITH NKOMO IS AT HIS REQUEST WE ASSUME THAT HE HAS A MESSAGE HE WANTS CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE BRITISH THIS WEEK AND WOULD APPRECIATE HIS VIEWS ON THE OWEN TRIP AND THE IDEAS THE FOREIGN

SECRETARY PRESENTED. IF HE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISE THE ISSUE, YOU SHOULD SOUND HIM OUT IN A LOW KEY ABOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER DAYLIGHT EXISTS BETWEEN HIM AND MUGABE ON THIS ISSUE.

4. NKOMO WILL LIKELY RAISE THE ISSUE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAPU. YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THE PLIGHT OF HIS FOLLOWERS AND OTHER ZIMBABWEAN EXILES IN ZAMBIA AND OTHER FRONT LINE STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ZAPU IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE UNHCR AND THE UNDP ON PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES WITHIN ZAMBIA. WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO REQUESTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EFFORTS. YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT AT THIS TIME WE CAN MAKE NO FIRM COMMITMENT UNTIL A REQUEST IS RECEIVED, STUDIED AND EVALUATED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES AND EXILEES.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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